



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIPLOMACY IN ACTION

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Office of Public Liaison and
Intergovernmental Affairs



Stay Engaged...

Feature

Secretary Clinton Travels to Asia

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton traveled to [Pakistan](#), [Republic of Korea](#), [Vietnam](#) and [Afghanistan](#) from July 18th through July 23rd. In Pakistan, Secretary Clinton participated in a meeting of the bilateral Ministerial-level Strategic Dialogue she chairs with her counterpart, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. In Afghanistan, Secretary Clinton attended the Kabul Conference. In Seoul, Secretary Clinton and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Korean War and met with President Lee Myung-bak. In Vietnam, the Secretary attended a luncheon highlighting the 15th anniversary of the U.S.-Vietnam bilateral relationship. She also participated in the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\)](#) Post Ministerial Conference and following that she joined the Foreign Ministers of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam for their second meeting to discuss the Lower Mekong Initiative. Secretary Clinton also led the U.S. delegation to the 17th ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial in Hanoi.



Secretary Clinton is greeted by Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai as she arrives on July 19, 2010 for private meetings inside the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Afghanistan. © AP Image.

- [Celebration of the 15th Anniversary of United States-Vietnam Relations](#)
- [Press Availability with Secretary Gates, Korean Foreign Minister Yu, and Korean Defense Minister Kim](#)
- [Remarks Following U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue](#)
- [Remarks at U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue](#)
- [Special Briefing by Ambassador Holbrooke on Upcoming Kabul Conference](#)
- [Other trip speeches, releases and fact sheets](#)

International

President Obama to Host Forum with Young African Leaders

WASHINGTON, DC, July 21 -- In 2010, seventeen countries across sub-Saharan Africa celebrate fifty years of independence. In honor of this important historic moment; in acknowledgement of the extraordinarily young demographic profile of the region; and as part of an effort to forge strong, forward-looking partnerships in the years ahead, President Obama will host a forum in Washington, D.C., from August 3 - 5 with approximately 120 young leaders from civil society and the private sector representing more than forty countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Together with American counterparts and U.S. government officials, the participants will share their insights on key themes of youth empowerment, good governance, and economic opportunity. President Obama will host a town hall meeting at the White House with these young leaders to discuss their vision for transforming their societies over the next fifty years. [Read More](#)

Renewed U.S.-Thai Alliance for the 21st Century

"Our alliance with Thailand ... is a key example of America's enduring commitment to the region, and it plays an indispensable role as a platform for projecting shared interests and values..."

BANGKOK, THAILAND, July 16 -- William Burns, Under Secretary for Political Affairs discussed U.S.-Thai relations and American strategic engagement in the Asia-Pacific region at Chulalongkorn University. Under Secretary Burns' trip was part of a larger effort by the Obama administration to enhance and deepen our engagement in the Asia-Pacific, and in particular, in Southeast Asia and with ASEAN. He said "Over the course of the next few decades, climate change, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, widespread poverty, and threats to human rights will pose significant challenges for all of us. Meeting those challenges requires a renewed emphasis on partnerships among us. Nowhere are those partnerships more significant for stability and prosperity across this region than in our treaty alliances with Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, the Philippines and, of course, Thailand."

[Read More](#)

U.S. and India Sign Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative

**NEW
DHELI,
INDIA, July
23 --** United States Ambassador to India Timothy J. Roemer



signed the Counterterrorism Cooperation Initiative (CCI) Memorandum of Understanding along with Home Affairs Secretary G.K. Pillai, who signed on behalf of India. The signing is the latest evidence of the close and effective cooperative efforts between the United States and India on counterterrorism, information sharing, and building capacities.

[Read More](#)

A Status Update on Recovery and Reconstruction Efforts Six Months After the Earthquake

WASHINGTON, DC, July 15 -- Officials from the U.S. Department of State discussed U.S. efforts in support of the Haitian people and the Haitian Government as they work to rebuild their country after the devastating earthquake that occurred on January 12, 2010. Participants on the call included Haitian-Americans as well as representatives from various nongovernmental organizations.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs Cheryl Benton served as the moderator. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Caribbean and Central American Affairs Julissa Reynoso and Public Affairs Counselor Embassy Port-au-Prince Jerome Oetgen updated the group and answered questions.

At the sixth month mark since the earthquake in Haiti, this conversation was an opportunity for State Department officials to reassure Haitian-Americans of the U.S. government's continuing support and assistance in short and long-term recovery and reconstruction efforts. Speakers laid out the efforts and accomplishments of the people and Government of Haiti, of the international community, and of the U.S. Government since the earthquake. They also acknowledged the long and difficult path to sustainable development and stressed the U.S. Government and international partners' commitment to helping realize the vision of the Government of Haiti set forward in their Action Plan for National Recovery and Development.

This call is part of a larger long-term outreach strategy on behalf of the State Department to communicate with Haitian-

Americans and members of nongovernmental organizations who are helping with reconstruction efforts in Haiti.

Additional Resources:

[Listen to the call on our Blog Talk Radio station](#)

[U.S. Department of State's website for the 2010 Earthquake in Haiti](#)

[The website for the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission](#)

Inside the Beltway

The Obama Administration's Approach to U.S.-Israel Security Cooperation: Preserving Israel's Qualitative Military Edge

"The United States has long recognized that a strong and secure Israel is vital to our own strategic interests. And we know that the forces that threaten Israel also threaten the United States of America. And therefore, we firmly believe that when we strengthen Israel's security, we strengthen America's security." - Secretary Of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

WASHINGTON, DC, July 16 – The Saban Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings Institution hosted Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Andrew J. Shapiro for a discussion of the state of the U.S.-Israeli security relationship, and the Obama administration's ongoing efforts to make this relationship stronger than ever. Assistant Secretary Shapiro highlighted recent efforts to expand defense consultations, security assistance programs, and partnerships in training, defense technology and related fields. Senior Fellow Kenneth Pollack, director of the Saban Center, provided introductory remarks and Ambassador Martin Indyk, Vice President and Director of Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution moderated the discussion. [Read More](#) | [Fact Sheet](#) | [Video](#)

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The U.S. Department of State's [Office of Public Liaison and Intergovernmental Affairs](#) launched a sign-up form to improve and expand its engagement with the non-governmental organization (NGO) community. This tool will ensure that the Department of State keeps *you* aware of foreign policy issues based on interests that *you* select!

Click [here](#) to sign-up and receive the following information from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Public Affairs:

- Invitations to events at the U.S. Department of State
- Invitations to other Department events in the Washington, DC area
- Updates about State Department events in U.S. cities across the United States
- Email updates with Foreign Policy announcements, testimony, and initiatives
- Bi-Weekly Electronic Newsletter

The Bureau's Office of Public Liaison and Intergovernmental Affairs maintains a database of NGO contacts representing a broad spectrum of U.S. civil society. Upon completing this form, your information will be sent to the Bureau of Public Affairs for processing. You will receive an email request every 6 months asking you to update your information. You can unsubscribe at any time by sending an email with subject line 'unsubscribe' to PublicOutreach@state.gov.

Mission Statement

To create and coordinate opportunities for dialogue between the Administration and the American public to improve public awareness of and involvement in the Department and its work.

President Obama Provides Progress Report on National Export Initiative, Announces Members of the President's Export Council

Goal of Doubling Exports Over Five Years to Support Millions of American Jobs Is On Track

WASHINGTON, DC, July 7 —President Barack Obama provided a progress report on the National Export Initiative (NEI), which shows that the President's goal of doubling exports and supporting several million new jobs over five years is on track, and that exports in the first four months of 2010 grew almost 17 percent from the same period last year. Since the President called for the NEI in his State of the Union Address, significant progress has been made on each of its five main objectives:



- **Improved advocacy efforts on behalf of U.S. exporters:** The Department of Commerce has coordinated 18 trade missions with over 160 companies participating in 24 countries.
- **Increased access to export financing:** Ex-Im has more than doubled its loans to support American exporters from the same period last year, helping to support nearly 110,000 jobs.
- **Reinforced efforts to remove barriers to trade:** In March, the United States reached an agreement with China to reopen the Chinese market to U.S. pork and pork products. In June, the United States agreed with Russia to reopen the Russian market to U.S. poultry exports. These steps are worth more than \$1 billion.
- **Enforcement of trade rules:** Last week the WTO ruled that European governments subsidized Airbus's large civil aircraft. This ruling is expected to sustain and even restore jobs to American aerospace workers by leveling the playing field for the U.S. aerospace industry.
- **International promotion of policies leading to strong, sustainable and balanced economic growth:** These last 18 months have been the most effective period of international economic cooperation in generations with global growth replacing economic contraction.

[Full progress report on the National Export Initiative](#) | [Members of the President's Export Council](#)

Global Issues Affecting the Nation

International Counternarcotics Policy

"The State Department makes use of a broad range of tools to attack transnational drug and other criminal enterprises."

WASHINGTON, DC, July 21 -- David T. Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs discussed International Counternarcotics Policy before the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Domestic Policy. He discussed the role of the Department, diplomacy through teamwork, country programs and results, and reducing demand. He concluded by stating, "The State Department makes use of a broad range of tools to attack transnational drug and other criminal enterprises. Our primary focus is on improving the criminal justice sectors – police, prosecutors, courts, and administration – of foreign governments so that they can confront such threats directly on their home turf and before they reach our borders. In key drug source countries, this also includes support for drug crop elimination and assistance programs to wean farmers away from drug crops. By modernizing police methods and criminal laws, we also improve the ability of partner governments to cooperate with U.S. law enforcement agencies at the operational and prosecutorial level." [Read More](#)

International AIDS Conference

WASHINGTON, DC, July 15 -- Ambassador Eric Goosby, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, led the U.S. delegation to the XVIII International AIDS Conference in Vienna, Austria. The conference brings together an estimated 25,000 participants, including scientists, health care providers, political, community and business leaders, government, non-governmental and multilateral organization representatives, and people living with HIV/AIDS, to discuss efforts to stop HIV/AIDS. Reflecting America's leadership in the fight against global AIDS through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the U.S. used this opportunity to share data, best practices, and lessons learned from PEPFAR-supported programs with the global community of HIV/AIDS program implementers. [Read More](#)

Adoption Talks in Moscow

WASHINGTON, DC, July 19 -- A U.S. delegation began a fourth round of discussions on inter-country adoption to pursue an agreement that provides greater safeguards for children and families in the adoption process between the two countries. During the bilateral talks, which are scheduled for July 21-23, the delegation will review the latest draft of the adoption agreement, making every effort to ensure that it addresses the legal and policy concerns of both countries. The U.S. team is headed by Mary Ellen Hickey, Managing Director of the Office of Overseas Citizens Services, and includes representatives from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the State Department's Legal Adviser's Office and Bureaus of Consular and European Affairs. [Read More](#)

Nelson Mandela International Day

"The first observance on July 18 this year honors President Mandela's extraordinary contributions and lifelong commitment to justice and human dignity."

WASHINGTON, DC, July 15 -- Secretary Clinton released a statement to commemorate the first observance of Nelson Mandela International Day. Secretary Clinton said, "Last year, the United States joined 192 other United Nations member states in supporting the creation of Nelson Mandela International Day. Its first observance on July 18 this year honors President Mandela's extraordinary contributions and lifelong commitment to justice and human dignity." [Read More](#)

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